

FY 2017
SMALL NEPA PROJECT DESCRIPTION
Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests

Please **do not leave any field BLANK**, unless it does not apply.
 Submit form (Word doc) electronically to jjchynoweth@fs.fed.us by **n/a**.

(NOTE: Italicized comments are for reference only. You may delete them when completing form.)

Project Name	Blue Jacket Fire Salvage and Reforestation Project
District name (or "Forestwide")	Palouse RD
County(ies) where project located?	Latah
FS Personnel Name, Phone Number and Email <i>If a partnership, please add name, phone and email; however, an FS employee MUST be the project proponent and point of contact.</i>	Miles Spong, 208-875-1711, tspong@fs.fed.us
Legal Location <i>Township(s), Range(s), and Section(s) of project.</i>	T.42N, R.2W. Sec. 20, 21. Boise Meridian
District Ranger / Line Officer's Name <i>Person(s) responsible for signing the decision document</i>	Stefani Spencer
Is the project associated with meeting a Forest target?	Yes
Which CE Category does this project fit*? <i>Provide citation: 36CFR 220.6(d)(x) or 36 CFR 220.6(e)(x)</i> <i>O:\NFS\NezPerceClearwater\Project\MultiBasin\Planning\Small_NEPA_Cat_Ex\Reference Material\CE Categories</i>	36 CFR 220.6(e)(13) & 36 CFR 220.6(e)(5)
<p>A written Project Record or Decision are not required for projects that fit a <u>36 CFR 220.6 (d) category</u>:</p> <p>Does the Decision Maker still want the project to go through the Small NEPA process? Y_X__ N__</p> <p><i>If no, this form does not need to be submitted to the Small NEPA planner.</i></p> <p><i>If yes, fill out the remainder of the form and submit to Small NEPA planner.</i></p> <p><i>(See - O:\NFS\NezPerceClearwater\Project\MultiBasin\Planning\Small_NEPA_Cat_Ex\Reference Material\CE Categories)</i></p>	

For projects submitted under a 36 CFR 220.6(e) category, or are being submitted for Small NEPA under a 36 CFR 220.6 (d) category (see above), at what level should the project be scoped?

Internal ___ External X___

Internal scoping would be through the Small NEPA IDT, unless otherwise specified. Scoping would be documented in the Extraordinary Circumstances Checklist.

External scoping would be with the public via a scoping letter, a legal notice, the scoping letter posted on the NPCWNF website, and postcards with a link to the website/scoping letter. The scoping letter/postcards will be mailed to the full NEPA mailing list unless otherwise specified.

What Level of Analysis (see below) does the Decision Maker want for the Project?

 X **Low level:** If the project's level of public scrutiny is projected to be relatively low or unknown, the line officer chooses who we would contact for scoping (limited). In this case specialists would only do the checklist for each project. Documentation for low level analysis projects would be a completed checklist filled out by the specialists, including the name of the specialist who performed the analysis, the project name, and date it was completed. No other written documentation would be generated.

 Moderate level: If the project's level of public scrutiny is projected to be relatively moderate to high, then the line officer chooses who we would contact for scoping (a little more broad). In this case, specialists would complete the checklist with the only write up being for items that are present and the rationale for the effects call. No write up would be given for items in the checklist that are not present. If the determination is no effect (which generally speaking, most CE's should have zero to very little adverse effects), then document why that determination was made in one paragraph or less. If the determination is an adverse effect, then why that determination was made would be written in less an three paragraphs.

List the Management Area(s) in which your project is located.

E1

See O:\NFS\NezPerceClearwater\Project\MultiBasin\Planning\Small_NEPA_Cat_Ex\Reference Material\Management Areas

What are the desired conditions for the Management Area(s) relative to your project?

Provide optimum, sustained production of wood products. Timber production is to be cost effective and provide adequate protection of soil and water quality. Manage viable elk populations within areas of historic elk use based on physiological and ecological needs. Manage a range of water quality and fish habitat potential from high fishable in several of the key anadromous and resident fish streams to a low fishable in the Palouse District and portions of the Pierce District.

Desired conditions described in Chapters 2 & 3 of the Nez Perce and Clearwater Forest Plans. List those that apply.

Is the project in a Roadless Area? Yes* No x

If yes, which one?

** If yes, answer the questions in the 'Project in Roadless Area' table below, **AND** complete a Briefing Paper - note map requirements. Provide the completed Briefing Paper to Environmental Coordinator and Brian Riggers prior to scoping.*

(For Briefing Paper Info and Template see O:\NFS\NezPerceClearwater\Project\MultiBasin\Planning\Small_NEPA_Cat_Ex\Reference Material\Roadless Rule Info\General Roadless Info.)

Is the project in a congressionally designated area, ex. Wilderness, Wild & Scenic River Corridor, Research Natural Area, Historic Trail, etc.? Yes* No x

If yes, which one(s)?

** If yes, contact Carol Hennessey, cahennessey@fs.fed.us, 935-4270, BEFORE submitting this proposal, to discuss how the project may affect the designated area.*

1987 Forest Plan maps are found at O:\NFS\NezPerceClearwater\Project\MultiBasin\Planning\Small_NEPA_Cat_Ex\Reference Material\Management Areas

Does the project involve road construction, reconstruction, temporary roads, or haul routes?

Yes X No

** If yes, answer the questions in the 'Project Involving Road Construction, Reconstruction, Temporary Roads, or Haul Routes' table below.*

Are Municipal Watersheds located in the project area? Yes No X

If yes, which one?

Are there Floodplains or Wetlands in the project area? Yes No X

Is the project located in an RHCA? Yes No X

Is the project in the Hell's Canyon National Recreation Area? Yes No X

Describe the existing condition of the project area.

The Strychnine Fire burned through the area from Sept 6 – 10, 2017. Burn severity was mixed with areas of moderate and severe burn intensity. Forest composition is primarily Douglas fir, grand fir, and cedar. There are also ponderosa pine and Western larch mixed throughout the stands. The majority of trees were damaged to the point of mortality.

What is the Purpose and Need for the proposed action?

The purpose of the project is to harvest trees that are dead or dying due the Strychnine Fire from approximately 80 acres of National Forest system land. One objective will be to optimize the economic value in order to support the local forest products industry and local economy by salvaging fire-killed and fire-injured trees from the landscape in a time efficient manner. Other objectives will include protecting the public from hazardous fire-killed snags, and revegetating burned areas with appropriate species.

Stands of economically valuable species such as Western Red Cedar, Douglas-fir, and Grand Fir were severely burned in the fire. As time progresses, these fire-killed trees lose their economic value due to deterioration of the wood. Fungi and insect damage decrease wood value, while decay decreases sawlog volume. As a result of these factors, by the fall of 2018 up to 20% of the economic value of these trees could be lost (Lowell et. Al 1992). Thus, there is a need to expeditiously salvage these trees within the burned area as these trends will only be magnified over subsequent months and years.

Additional activities would include reforestation after harvest to restore the area to a mix of native seral species including Western white pine, ponderosa pine, and Western larch. A small amount of temporary road, not to exceed 0.5 miles, will be built to access the unit(s). Site preparation activities such as prescribed burning may be implemented to increase reforestation success.

The purpose and need describes: Why the action is being proposed at this location and at this time (the need) and the desired objectives/outcomes of the action (the purpose).

Describe the Proposed Action.

What is provided below will be used in the Scoping Letter, by the resource specialists for their effects analyses, and in the Decision document so be thorough, detailed, and descriptive. Please include all project-related activities that may have an impact on the environment.

Describe the Proposed Action in narrative paragraphs, which will include:

Timber will be harvested by the purchaser of the salvage sale. Fire-killed or injured/dying trees will be designated for harvest by Forest Service personnel. Desirable trees which survived the fire will be designated for retention. Harvest will occur on 80 acres located in T.42N, R.2W. Sec. 20 & 21 (Boise Meridian). Due to the undulating nature of the ground, harvest will be conducted primarily with skyline logging systems with ground-based (tractor) systems being employed on slopes less than 45%. Potential cutting units will be accessed by FS Road 4774-B and 4774. 0.5 miles or less of new temporary road construction will be necessary to complete the project. It is expected that timber from this area will be sold and the process of removal will begin imminently to capture as much of the residual value as possible.

Areas that experienced high-intensity, stand-replacing fire may not have adequate natural seed remaining in the soil or a seed source within close enough proximity to reforest within desired timeframes. Thus, there is a need to revegetate those areas to restore them to a desired forested condition. Planting may occur within these areas upon completion of the timber sale.

Implementation of the harvest is expected to occur in the spring and summer of 2018. Reforestation is expected to occur in the spring of 2020.

The project area does not include streams, live water, or Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas.

Will the project change access restrictions? If so, how? No.

Will any permits, etc. be needed before the project can start? If so, what and from who? No

List the Design Criteria and Mitigation Measures to be included with the Proposed Action.

SOIL RESOURCES	
SR-1	Restrict activities when soils are wet to prevent resource damage (indicators include excessive rutting, soil displacement, and erosion).
SR-2	Limit ground based skidding to slopes 45% or less (Idaho Forest Practices Act).
SR-3	Locate and design skid trails, landings and yarding corridors prior to activities to minimize the area of detrimental soil effects. Space tractor skid trails no less than 80 feet apart (edge to edge), except where converging on landings. This does not preclude the use of feller bunchers.
SR-4	Restrict equipment used for post-harvest excavator piling to existing trails and/or previously impacted areas.
SR-5	Ensure suspension of one end of the log when utilizing skyline yarding systems.
SR-6	Construct drainage controls (waterbars, drain ditches) and apply available slash in log yarding corridors (cable or skyline) upon completion of harvest activities where bare mineral soil is exposed and water flow may be confined.
SR-7	Scarify and recontour excavated skid trails to restore slope hydrology and soil productivity.
SR-8	Scarify non-excavated skid trails and landings that are compacted or entrenched 3 inches or more. Scarify to a depth of 6 to 14 inches.
SR-9	All temporary roads will be scarified and recontoured (decommissioned). Reshape cut/fill slopes and crossings to natural contours. Apply available slash to the recontour surface (slash is considered available where the equipment is able to reach it from the working area where the decommissioning is occurring).
SR-10	Retain and/or return green tops within units and allow green foliage to over-winter 1 year prior to burning.
SR-11	Allow winter logging only during frozen conditions, where required per SR-11. Frozen conditions are defined as 4 inches of frozen ground or a barrier of unpacked snow greater than two feet in depth and packed snow one foot in depth.
SR-12	Keep slash piles (excavator piles) small (4-10' in height).
SR-13	Retain an average of x to x tons per acre of coarse woody debris (greater than 3 inches in diameter) following completion of activities.
ACCESS MANAGEMENT & PUBLIC SAFETY	
AM-1	Close existing gates (consistent with current motor vehicle restrictions) daily during non-operating hours.
WILDLIFE	
WL-1	Spring burning shall occur in units xx - xx to address any concerns regarding wildlife species or habitat, including migratory birds, ungulate calving/fawning, and threatened endangered and sensitive species. Coordinate implementation of spring prescribed burn operations in units with a wildlife biologist.
WL-2	Protect a ½ mile buffer around identified bald eagle wintering areas from disturbance, including aircraft, from November 15 to March 15 (see map XX).
WL-3	Maintain a minimum 40 acre yearlong no-treatment buffer (no ground disturbing activities) around recently occupied goshawk nest trees (see map XX).
WL-4	No ground disturbing activities shall be allowed inside known occupied post-fledgling areas from April 15 to August 15 (see map XX).
AIR QUALITY	
AQ-1	Limit burning to times when wind patterns would cause smoke plumes to drift away from local populated areas.
AQ-2	Coordinate with the North Idaho/Montana Airshed Group when prescribed burns are scheduled (minimum 24 hour notice) to ensure compliance with the Clean Air Act.
FISHERIES	
	N/A the project area does not include any watercourses or Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas.
NOXIOUS WEEDS	
NW-1	Use Forest Service approved native plant species or non-native annual species to meet erosion control needs and other management objectives. Follow regional plant and seed transfer guidelines. Require contractors to use certified seed laboratories to test seed against the all state noxious weed list, and provide documentation of the seed inspection test to the contract administrator. Apply only certified weed-free seed and mulch.
NW-2	Certify that rock used for surfacing is free of noxious weed seed.
NW-3	Remove all mud, soil, and plant parts from off road equipment before moving into project area to limit the spread of noxious weeds. Conduct cleaning off National Forest lands.

List the Best Management Practices (BMPs) to be included with the proposed action.

Water Quality, Weeds Management

Additional BMPs can be listed under “Additional Information” on the last page of this form.

At a minimum, consider appropriate BMPs for water quality standards and weed management.

Source documents for approved BMPs can be found at – O: NFS\NezPerceClearwater\Project\MultiBasin\ Planning\ Small_NEPA_Cat_Ex\Reference Material\BMPs

Specific individuals, groups, agencies, etc., including mailing addresses (do not provide just a name), who will be included for Scoping (external scoping only). *

Latah County Commissioners

Benewah County Commissioners

Friends of the Clearwater

Lewis and Clark ATV club

Timber Purchasers (IFG, Bennett, Stimson, Potlatch, etc)

** The Nez Perce and Coeur d’Alene Tribal governments will be contacted.*

Please attach to your project submission email, separate from this form, a GIS-generated map or maps of the project area (pdf format only) per the instructions outlined below. Do not give links to maps or datasets. Please make sure that the layers can be turned on/off on your PDF map(s).

At least one map, with (preferably) a “portrait” orientation, showing the project location/activities as points, e.g. culvert, mineral exploration site, etc.; lines, e.g. fence, road, creek, etc.; and/or the project boundary as a polygon, e.g. stand, treatment area, etc. Do not use a point when treating an area, use a polygon.

The map(s) needs to include identifying features, such as towns, roads, trails, rivers/streams, geophysical landmarks, etc. to identify where the project is on the landscape

Please use the Forest Visitor Map as your map’s base layer (see below*). This will standardize the appearance of the maps for scoping. Please do not add contour lines to the map unless needed. Contour lines make the map difficult to read. A topo map may be used as a substitute for the FV Map, as long as there are sufficient identifying features on the base layer that can be used to identify the project’s location. If contour lines are not important to defining the location they should be turned off.

The preferred (not required) scale is 1:24000. If the project area can’t be adequately shown at 1:24K, use a larger scale (> 1:24K) showing the entire project area and if needed, provide additional maps showing details of the project activities. **Please make as few maps as possible.** Conversely, if the 1:24K scale is too large (i.e. the project / action area is a tiny point or a thin line hard to find on a large landscape), use a smaller scale (< 1:24K) to provide more detail while ensuring that the project area’s/activities’ location is identifiable.

All maps should include, at a minimum, a **Title** (include only the district and the project name); a **Legend** with the project feature(s) clearly labeled, e.g. culvert replacement, fence line, x treatment area, etc.; a **Scale** in miles (not km) using full miles, such as 0_0.25_0.5_1.0 miles (ending with 0.5 miles okay); and a **North Arrow**. Please use a black outlined box with a white background (not gray) to display them.

The map(s) are used for scoping purposes – to show the public, as clearly and efficiently as possible, what activity or activities are being proposed and where the activity or activities are located on the Forest – and in the DM.

** The Small NEPA geodatabase contains feature classes, including the Forest Visitor Map, that can be used for map creation. The geodatabase is found at:*

T:\FS\NFS\NezPerceClearwater\Project\MultiBasin\Planning\Small_NEPA_Cat_Ex\GIS\SmallNEPA.gdb

If you need help with accessing and/or working with the geodatabase in GIS, contact your Zone GIS Specialist (first) or you can contact Jim Lutes at jamesrlutes@fs.fed.us; 963-4202.

SHAPEFILES

The resource specialists want the shapefile(s) of the project’s proposed activity(ies) before they begin their analyses. The Project Proponent needs to send the shapefile(s)* to the Small NEPA Planner (jjchynoweth@fs.fed.us) by the time the District Ranger submits this form.

*The shapefile(s) need to be labeled with the Project Name and Feature.

* The shapefile(s) should include the following extensions – .dbf, .prj, .sbn, .shp, .shx, and .xml.

*A location where the shapefile(s) can be found (ex., T drive) does not meet this obligation.

***The shapefile(s) do not substitute** for providing a map as described above.

Small NEPA IDT/resource specialists are listed below. Contact them if you have any questions regarding their resource and your project.

Botany – Mike Hays, mhays01@fs.fed.us; 983-4028
 Cultural – Robbin Johnston, rtjohnston@fs.fed.us; 476-8335
 Fisheries – Dan Kenney, dkenney@fs.fed.us; 476-8319
 Hydrology – Eric Crook, ecrook@fs.fed.us; 875-1727
 Minerals – Rebecca Anderson, rebeccaanderson@fs.fed.us; 476-8351
 Recreation – Shawn Dieterich, sdieterich@fs.fed.us; 875-1706
 Soils – Eric Crook, ecrook@fs.fed.us; 875-1727
 Wildlife – Alyssa Fellow, afellow@fs.fed.us; 476-8215

Projects in Roadless Area

<p>What is the Roadless Area name?</p> <p><i>O:\NFS\NezPerceClearwater\Project\MultiBasin\Planning\ Small_NEPA_Cat_Ex\Reference Material\Roadless Rule Info</i></p>	<p><u>Idaho Roadless Area (IRA) Name:</u></p> <p><u>Forest Plan IRA Name (if different):</u></p>
<p>Identify the Idaho Roadless Management classification (permitted activities vary by classification).</p> <p><i>Classifications include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Wild Land Recreation</i> • <i>Special Areas of Historic or Tribal Significance</i> • <i>Primitive</i> • <i>Backcountry Restoration</i> • <i>General Forest, Rangeland and Grassland</i> 	<p>Classification:</p>
<p>Does the project involve constructing or reconstructing roads? Yes* No</p> <p><i>* If yes, see http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2011-title36-vol2 then navigate to Subpart C 294.23</i></p>	
<p>Does the project involve cutting trees? Yes* No</p> <p><i>* If yes, see http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2011-title36-vol2 then navigate to Subpart C 294.24</i></p>	
<p>Does the project involve removing minerals, including common variety minerals? Yes* No</p> <p><i>* If yes, see http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2011-title36-vol2 then navigate to Subpart C 294.25</i></p>	

Projects Involving Road Construction, Reconstruction, Temporary Roads, and/or Haul Routes

Note: Specialists will address items 9-11 (*in italics*) below.

ACCESS CONSIDERATIONS	YES / NO	MITIGATION MEASURE/COMMENTS
1. Will road construction or reconstruction be required? Type of road and length.	N	
2. Will temporary roads be needed?	Y	NTE 0.5 miles
3. Will road maintenance be needed? Who will perform?	Y	Purchaser
4. Will there be a change to the current road restrictions?	N	
5. Are haul roads part of an established snowmobile network?	N	
6. Are there public safety concerns for roads, trails, or other road improvements?	N	
7. Are there other improvements which will require protection?	N	
8. Does the area currently meet Forest Plan standards for soils?	Y	
9. <i>Will the project impact elk security?</i>	??	
10. <i>Will the project or log haul impact winter range?</i>	??	
11. <i>Will the project impact critical elk summer range?</i>	??	

JC : 9/15/2017

Additional Information: